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THE
FAIR HEBREW:

OR, A
TRUE, but SECRET
HISTORY
OF

TWO Jewish LADIES,
Who lately resided in LONDON.

The Second Edition.

L O N D O N,

Printed for J. BRINDLEY in *New-Bond-Street*, W. MEADOWS
and J. WALTHOE in *Cornhill*, A. BETTESWORTH in *Pater-*
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RAL in *Fleet-Street*, J. LEWIS in *Covent-Garden*, J. PENN in
Westminster-Hall and R. WALKER at the *White-Hart* without
Temple-Bar. 1729.

W. Musgrave.



T H E
PREFACE.



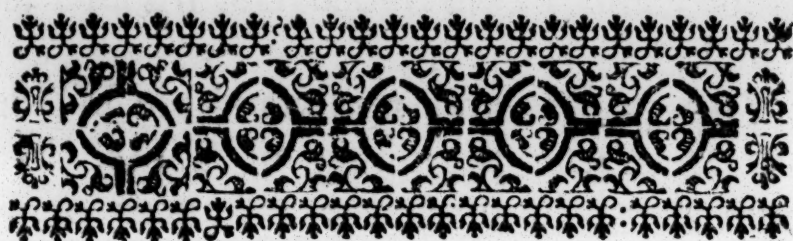
HERE are so many Things,
meerly the Effect of Invention,
which have been published, of
late, under the Title of SE-
CRET HISTORIES, that, to di-
stinguish this, I am obliged to inform my
Reader, that I have not inserted one In-
cident which was not related to me by
a Person nearly concerned in the Family
of

The P R E F A C E.

of that unfortunate Gentleman, who had no other Consideration in the Choice of a WIFE, than to gratify a present Passion for the Enjoyment of her Beauty.

I found something so particular in the Story, and so much Room for the most useful and moral Reflections to be drawn from it, that I thought I should be guilty of an Injury to the Publick in concealing it. If among all who shall read the following Sheets, any one Person may reap so much Advantage as to avoid the Misfortunes the SUBJECT of them fell into by his Inadvertency, and giving a Loose to Passion; the little Pains I have been at, will be infinitely recompenc'd.





T H E
Fair HEBREW:

A
Secret HISTORY.



PRODIGIOUS are the Effects of Beauty! Strength, Valour, Wisdom, and even Piety itself, are not sufficient to defend us from the Attacks of this all-captivating Enemy. The insinuating Glances of two lovely Eyes have Power to melt the roughest Warrior to Effeminacy, make the Statesman forget his cunning, unlock the Cabinets of Princes, and from the Altar draw the suppliant Votary; the sweet Enchantment so fills up the Soul, that it drives all other Considerations

B thence,

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thence, and reigns alone triumphant and adored.

THE gravest and most credible Historians, from the beginning of Time, hand down to us innumerable Instances of the Truth of this Assertion; but among them all, there is not a Lover to be found, who ventured, or that suffered more in the Pursuit of his amorous Inclinations than did the Subject of the following Pages:

YOUNG DORANTE, Heir to a considerable Estate, being just arrived from his Travels, in which he had improved his Studies, with all that can compleat a fine Gentleman; *among other youthful Frolicks*, took it into his Head one Day to go, with some of his Companions, to the *Jews Synagogue*: An improper Place, the Reader will imagine, to search for Beauty in, those People never suffering their Females to appear with Faces uncovered at their Devotion. It was here, however, that poor DORANTE received an Impression he was never able after to erase; happening to stand just under the Lattice behind which the Women sit, he saw a Handkerchief drop from it, and fall at his Feet; he immediately took it up, and lifting it towards the Place whence it fell, the finest Hand in the World was put forth to receive it. So beautiful a Sample filled him
with

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with the most earnest Desire to see the whole Piece, but that was impossible in the present Situation: He was resolved, however, to attempt it, and, communicating his Intentions to those that were with him, who were none of them very scrupulous, they agreed to force into the Place where the Ladies were. The Pass being guarded only by one old *Jew*, they easily accomplished their Design, and DORANTE made directly to that Part of it where the Handkerchief had dropp'd. The beautiful Owner had still her Glove off, and the Delicacy of her Hand, as well as the Lustre of a fine Ring, which he had taken particular Notice of, it being a large Emerald with a Diamond drill'd through the middle, directed him which of that numerous Assembly it was, who must gratify his Curiosity. Her Face being close muffled in her Hood, as is the Custom with them, he would have been little the better for what he had done, if he had not ventured to proceed yet farther, and remove the Obstacle from the Head of the fair *Israelite*. But, he had no sooner been guilty of the Presumption, than he repented it, two Eyes of such an angry Radiance broke upon him as at once charmed and awed his Boldness: He was preparing to say something in Excuse of it, when the whole Syna-

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gogue, being alarmed by the *Jew* who unwillingly had given Entrance to these Strangers, came to the Relief of their Wives and Daughters, and, partly by Force, and partly by Persuasions, at length got them out of that forbidden Place. DORANTE, however, was not to be hindred from standing at the Door of the *Synagogue*, watching his Charmer coming forth, nor when he saw her do so, led by a grave old Man, from following where he conducted her. Having seen them enter a large spacious House, he easily informed himself in the Neighbourhood to whom it belonged, and that the Beauty to whom he had already devoted himself, was only Daughter to the Master of it, and call'd KESIAH; that she was yet unmarried, and had the Character of the wittiest and best humour'd of all the Maids of her Religion. His next Care was, how to let her know the Passion she had inspired him with; his late Behaviour at the *Synagogue*, he knew, would render any Pretence he could make of seeing her at Home, wholly innesectual, and, among the rest of his Intelligence, he also learn'd, that she was never suffered to go abroad without her Father, one of her Brothers, or some other Relation to have a Guard over her Actions.

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The only Means, therefore, left him was to write to her, which he did in these Terms.

To the most beautiful KESIAH.

AS you had Cause to be surprized at the Insolence of a Stranger, who, contrary to the Rules of your Religion, and indeed good Manners, would not yesterday be denied the Sight of your Face, you will certainly be much more so, that he who committed that Crime, dares not only to avow it, but depends also on your Mercy for Pardon. It was *Curiosity* which occasioned my Boldness, but *Love* alone could oblige me to declare to you who it was had been guilty of it. The Suddenness with which I received the Impression of your Charms, while it convinces me of the almighty Power of them, at the same Time makes me believe it the irresistible Impulse of *Fate*, which compelled me, contrary to my Nature, and the Regard I bear to all Places sacred to Divine Worship, to an Action that indeed can no otherwise be excused. — I have seen you, O most adorable KESIAH! but once, and then too but for a Moment, yet has that transient View done more than all the Beauties of those different

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“ different Kingdoms I have been in, could
“ effect on the nearest Admission to their
“ Charms. It is certain that I am doom’d
“ blest or miserable to excess; but which,
“ lies only in your own divine Breast to
“ determine.—If you would permit a Cor-
“ respondence with me, I flatter myself
“ there is a possibility of testifying that I
“ am less unworthy the Happiness I aim
“ at, than my late Behaviour may make
“ you think. I need not enumerate the
“ many Obstacles which prevent my pay-
“ ing you those publick Devoirs, which
“ are your Beauty’s due, you know them
“ too well, and that will I hope be a suf-
“ ficient Excuse for my entreating you will
“ accept the Offer I make you of my E-
“ ternal Services in the Way I am allowed
“ to do it. Be assured, that I love you
“ more than Life, and that nothing can
“ afford me so sensible a Pleasure as the
“ Means to give you Proofs of it. Till then,
“ I beg but to be receiv’d in the Train of
“ your Admirers, and that since a nearer
“ Conversation is at present foreign to my
“ Hopes, a Line from that charming Hand
“ may inform me, you disdain not the O-
“ blation of a Heart so sincere and passi-
“ onate as that of your

DORANTE.

HE

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HE sent this by a Servant in whom he could confide, strictly charging him to watch about the House, till he should see KESIAH alone at the Door or Window, and when he did so, to deliver it to her, and press for an Answer. The Fellow executed his Commission so well, that no Person in the Family had any Suspicion of him. The Charming *Hebrew* happened to come to a Parlour Window, where she sat down in a musing Posture, which convincing DORANTE's Emissary that none was near, he approached and surprized her with putting the Billet into her Hands. From whom is this! cried she, you will be satisfied, Madam, when you have read it, answered he, my Commands were only to deliver it, and entreat an Answer, which if you please, I will attend in three or four Hours, with the same Precaution as I have taken in giving you this. He had no sooner spoke these Words than he retired, leaving her at Liberty to examine the Contents. Tho' she knew not the Name of DORANTE, nor had a Thought at that Time of what had happened in the *Synagogue*, yet at her first Sight casting her Eyes on it, perceiving it was a Declaration of Love, she immediately run to a more private Place to read it, well knowing that if she were discovered in
that

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that Employment, it would be the last she should have an Opportunity of receiving. But the Contents no sooner informing her of the Author, than she was fill'd with a Pleasure which no Words are able to describe. The Boldness of DORANTE had been so far from rendring him disagreeable, that she had ever since remembered him with a Wish that it might be something more than bare Curiosity which had caused it. The strict Restraint she was kept in by her Parents, had heightened her Desire of Liberty, and she looked on their Care, as a kind of Bondage. To add to all this, she had an Aversion, not only for all the Men of her Religion, but also for the Laws and Customs of the Religion itself, and desired nothing more than to become a *Christian*. DORANTE's Person and Principles were both Charming to her, and she resolved not only to encourage his Addresses, but also, if she found his Pretensions honourable, to quit every Thing for him. She indulged Meditation on this new and pleasing Conquest for a considerable Time; but then remembring the Messenger of her Lover had told her he would wait her Answer, she began to think in what Manner she should prepare one, which at length she resolved on, and wrote these Lines:

To

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To the worthy DORANTE.

“ **Y**OUR Behaviour in the *Synagogue*
“ would certainly have been an un-
“ pardonable Fault, were I a Bigot to the
“ Religion in which I have been educated;
“ but my Heart is so much inclined to yours,
“ that I cannot, without doing a Violence
“ to my self, believe a *Christian* can be
“ guilty of a base Action. Impute my for-
“ giveness, therefore, to the good Will I
“ bear your Principles, as also the Conde-
“ scension of this Answer. As for the Pas-
“ sion you profess, I have past the few Years
“ of my Life in too close a Restraint to be
“ any Judge of it at all, much less know
“ what to think of it in a Person so en-
“ tirely a Stranger to me: 'Tis Time and
“ Perseverance only can assure me the little
“ Beauty I am Mistress of can have made
“ any serious Impression on your Heart;
“ neither is it necessary I should ask my
“ self the Question, how far I ought to
“ be influenced by it, till I am first satis-
“ fied in the other. I would not be too
“ forward in believing my self obliged, nor
“ ungrateful when I find I am so.— I give
“ you leave, however, to entertain me with
“ your Letters as frequently as you please:
“ only

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“ only be sure to observe a proper Circum-
“ spection in the Delivery of them: The
“ least Suspicion of such a Correspondence
“ being of the utmost Prejudice to what
“ you at present term your Inclinations, as
“ well as to the Repose of

KESIAH

HAVING sealed this and put it into her Pocket, she took her Post at the Parlour Window, where she found already the faithful Messenger attending, she threw it immediately out, and shut the Window, as well to conceal her Blushes from his sight, as any other Reason. The Modesty inherent to Virginity, would not suffer her to think she had entred into an Intrigue with a young Gentleman in this clandestine Manner, without some Mixture of Shame; but the Liking she had to him, and the Apprehensions that she should perhaps be forced to Marry a *Jew*, if she did not dispose of herself otherwise, made her chuse rather to sustain this little Shock than be exposed to so terrible a Misfortune.

'TWOULD be impossible to represent the Transport of DORANTE at the Receipt of so obliging an Answer. He had been in the most poignant Disquiet after his sending that Letter, he remembered with how
much

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much seeming Disdain she looked upon him when he threw back her Hood, and expected from her the most severe Reply that haughty and offended Wit could form. A thousand Times, he wished he had not writ; was beginning to examine his Heart, if there were a Possibility for it to banish her Idea, so firmly did he believe he should have Occasion to exert all his Resolution for Relief from so hopeless a Passion.—What Extacies then must such an unlook'd for Condescension raise! how must his Bosom swell with new Delight, as the Poet says,

Kindness has resistless Charms,
All Things else but faintly warms:
It gilds the Lover's servile Chain,
And makes the Slave grow pleas'd and
[vain.

Before he struggled with his Passion, used his utmost Efforts to prevent the Growth of it, and even quarrell'd with himself, that he had not Strength enough of Mind to overcome it; but now, on the contrary, he indulged, he cherish'd the sweet Idea, thought it his Glory and his Happiness to Love, and would not for the World have returned to his former Insensibility. 'Tis not therefore to be doubted, but that in this Disposition of Mind, he fail'd not to ply her

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her with Letters, having her Permission to send them; to all which, he received Answers that gave him no Reason to despair: He prevailed so far at length as to have Leave to entertain her at a little Window, which opened from a low Stair-case, at Midnight, when all the rest of the Family were in Bed; there did he make a thousand Protestations of an inviolable Love and Fidelity: She seemed pleased with the Assurances he gave her, and in Return, confessed he was not indifferent to her, and that she would scruple to afford no Testimonies of her good Will to him, provided his Requests transgress'd not the Bounds of Honour. He started a little at that Exception, and rather evading than answering any Discourse of that Kind, she took Notice of it with a Disdain becoming a virtuous Maid, telling him she had too much Cause to fear the specious Pretences of Love he made her, were so many Baits for her Undoing; and, that if he would not resolve to become her Husband, she would withdraw all farther Conversation with him. It was but in vain that he alledged nothing could be so pleasing to him as the certainty of passing his whole Life with her; but that he feared the Difference of the Religions in which they were educated, would take away all Possibility

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Possibility of what she desired. That, said she, can be no Obstacle on your Side, because I am ready to embrace your Faith, and will the Moment I forsake my Father's House be Baptiz'd. I must indeed in renouncing *Judaism*, renounce also all Hope of ever possessing the Inheritance of my Birth, and perhaps too run an imminent Hazard of my Life, could the Tribes, by any Statagem, get me afterwards in their Power: But you, what Danger do you incur? unless it be a short Displeasure from your Father for marrying without a Portion, and that, I doubt not to atone for the Want of, by my Love, Virtue, and good Conduct. DORANTE coolly replied, that were he certain his Father would be brought so far to pardon as to leave him a Competency to maintain her, he should himself look on her Beauty and Perfections as a sufficient Dowry; but this Answer not satisfying her, she bad him consider on what she had said, and see her no more, if he resolved not on Compliance. With these Words she shut the Window, and retired with so much Precipitation, that he could not have resum'd the Conversation, if he had been inclined to it. He went Home greatly discontented with this Night's Adventure: He loved the fair KESIAH, 'tis true,

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true, with an Extremity of Passion; but as it had never entered into his Head to make her his Wife, the Proposal shock'd him beyond Measure: He thought he could have retained her forever as a Mistress, but could not reflect on forfeiting his Father's Affection, and the World's Esteem of his Prudence, by so unsuitable a Match, without shocks, which, for a while, stifled his Inclination: The more he reflected, the more he determined never to be guilty of what he knew he must expect no Pardon for, and swore to himself to think on her no more. But how vain is Reason when oppos'd to love, he had the fatal Dart fast sticking in his Heart! and tho' he felt not the Pain of it in the first Hurry of Surprise at her Behaviour, yet it soon returned with double Anguish on him, her Beauty, and her Professions of Virtue, set her before the Eyes of his Imagination, in so charming a Light, that he began to think he could not suffer too much for so meritorious an Object. In fine, his Passion got the better, and all overwhelmed in a Torrent of Desire, he resolved to venture every Thing for her Enjoyment. He assured her of it by a Letter he wrote for that Purpose, in which he made the most solemn Promises to become her Husband as soon as she

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she would give him the Opportunity. On which she consented to see him the same Night at their usual Rendezvous the Window, where he confirmed by many Oaths the Contents of his Letter,

PEOPLE who scruple not to falsify their Promises easily make them, but those who are with great Difficulty prevailed on to give an Assurance of any Thing, are for the most Part very punctual in their Performance of it; the very Deliberation they take before they enter into an Engagement, testifies they know the Weight of it, and that they will not oblige themselves beyond their Power or their Will to execute. KESIAH had penetration enough to discover, that since DORANTE had so solemnly protested he would make her his Wife, he meant nothing more than to do so; and, therefore agreed to his Desires of quitting the next Day her Father's House for ever.

EARLY the next Morning he procured a Ring and Licence, and, going to a Part of the Town where he was entirely unknown, took Lodgings for himself and KESIAH, not telling the People of the House, that it was a Bride and Bridegroom they were to entertain, but pretending to have been married some Time, and that his Wife and himself were just come to *London*. This
Story

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Story was as readily believ'd as spoken, and the appointed Hour for KESIAH's Escape being now come, he met her at a Place they had before prefixed, then went immediately to an adjacent Church, and ty'd the indissoluble Knot.

It was not many Hours, before the fair Fugitive was miss'd by her careful Father, who, having in vain enquired for her of all the Servants, ran to her Chamber, and, finding her Jewels, and what else she had of easy Carriage, removed, as well as her self, he no longer doubted if she was gone with an Intention to return no more. At last bethinking himself of searching a little Cabinet she had, he found the first Letter DORANTE had written to her after the Adventure in the *Synagogue*. The Contents of it informed him, it came from that Person who had occasioned so great a Disorder that Day among them, and as he had taken the greatest Care to keep her from the Speech of all Mankind, especially the *Christians*, he presently imagined it must be this young Gentleman who had appeared more charming, than all the Principles of her Duty and Religion. Distraction scarce comes up to the Rage of Temper he was in at this first Discovery of his Misfortune, and the eternal Ruin, as he termed

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term'd it of an only Daughter: But when the emotions of Grief and Fury had a little exhausted themselves in Exclamations, and Consideration assum'd its former Seat in his disorder'd Soul, he set himself to Enquire who this DORANTE was, where he Lived, and of what Reputation and Quality. His diligence soon made him acquainted with all the Particulars he desired to know concerning him: And among them being told that his Father was one of the most grave and sober Gentlemen of his Time, he went to him, showed him the Letter his Son had sent, declar'd his Behaviour in the *Synagogue*, and the Reasons he had to believe it was no other than himself, who had seduced the unfortunate KESIAH from her Obedience.

It is impossible to express Surprise and Trouble in Terms pathetick enough to make the Reader sensible how much of both the old Gentlemen felt at this recital of the *Jew*: He had been told by his Servants that DORANTE of late kept very ill Hours, and now asking them some farther Questions, one of them inform'd him, that hapning to be out one Evening much later than the Rules of that Family permitted, he saw his young Master holding Discourse with a Lady at a Window: He then de-

D

scribed

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scribed the Street and House in so particular a Manner, that the old *Hebrew* immediately cried out it was his own, and that doubtless it was KESIAH, who Entertain'd him at that Hour and Place. On which the Father of DORANTE grew more perplex'd, and feeling the Sorrows of the Lamenting *Jew*, he gave his solemn Promise to discourse his Son on the Affair in such Terms, as shou'd oblige him to restore his Daughter, or forfeit his Favour for ever. He desired he wou'd tarry some Time, because he was in Expectation of DORANTE'S Return, who was not accusom'd to go Abroad so Early, nor stay so many Hours together out of the House as he had done that Day. The *Israelite* willingly complied, but Night coming on, and no DORANTE appearing, he was compell'd to take his Leave, tho' somewhat better satisfied with the old Gentleman's Behaviour, than he had been before he saw him, hoping there was still a possibility of recovering his Daughter before her Ruin was compleated, from the Assurances he had receiv'd of his good Will to serve him, and utter abhorrence of his Son's Proceedings.

BUT KESIAH was in the mean time taking particular Care to disappoint all the Endeavours

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Endeavours might be used for obliging her Return, she was not only married lawfully to DORANTE, but, the better to secure herself from her Father's Power, she entirely renounc'd *Judaism*, embrac'd *Christianity*, and was baptized, and receiv'd into the Church of *England*, with all the Forms and Ceremonies necessary to render it dangerous, for even the Authority of a Parent to give her any Interruption.

DORANTE loved her to Madness, was Ravish'd with the Possession of what he Esteem'd so great a Treasure, yet were his Pleasures mingled with Gall, when he reflected he had sold his Liberty, enter'd into an Engagement which Death alone cou'd release him from, and run the Hazard of displeasing for ever the best, and hitherto most tender of Fathers, he was ready to dye with remorse, nor cou'd all the softness of KESIAH, nor even the Raptures of her Enjoyments, put these Considerations wholly out of his Mind. Not that his Affection diminish'd by being become Master of his Wishes, but the tenderness he had for his dear Bride serv'd but to enhance his Grief on remembring, that if it shou'd not be in his Power to reconcile his Father to what he had done, how miserable also this Marriage wou'd make her;

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He knew she had been bred with all imaginable delicacy, and cou'd ill endure the pinching Gripes of Want; the few Bills of Exchange, Mony and Jewels they both had, wou'd soon be Exhausted, and as it wou'd then be no way in his Power to support her, he even trembled to think to what Miseries he might see her reduc'd, without the Capacity of affording her any other Consolation, than that melancholy and ineffectual one of suffering with her.

HE was also extreamly puzzled what excuse to make to his Father for absenting himself from his Presence, the space of a whole Day and Night, resolving to keep the Knowledge of the Truth as long as possible from him: But how great was his Consternation, when the first Words he heard from his Mouth were Reproaches, for having seduced a young Maid of the *Jewish* Religion. I wou'd not have the Ruin of any one, said the old Gentleman, alledg'd to my Family, and him that perseveres in an attempt unworthy of him, must expect to be discarded by me, and made an alien to my Name and House; it was to no purpose that DORANTE endeavour'd either to evade this Accusation, or deny the Truth of it. His Father seem'd positive in the Fact, and
grew

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grew more incens'd at his refusing to acknowledge it. And when he Swore, as well he might, that he had not the least design to the Prejudice of any Woman's Honour, much less that of KESIAH, he seem'd in the old Gentleman's Opinion to be turn'd every way a Libertine: For he had not the most distant Notion that there was a Marriage in the Case, and cou'd not suppose his Son had perswaded her from her Fathers House, for no other purpose than to Live with him in a *Platonick* Love. He therefore bad him avoid his Sight, and come no more before him, till he had restor'd the Maid to her Parents. DORANTE on this made a low Bow, and went out of the House, saying only that he hoped Time and Reflection wou'd be his Friends.

WITH how much discontent was therefore the Nuptial of this young Gentleman accompanied, he return'd to his Bride, hoping to have receiv'd some Comfort in this Vexation from her Endearments: But on the contrary, she flew into the extreamest Rage against him, for not having related the whole Truth to his Father. What, said she, am I unworthy to be call'd your Wife? Is my Person and Character of such mean estimation in your Account, that you
imagine

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imagine you have degraded yourself, by marrying me, so far that 'tis past a Parent's Power to forgive it? But think not, continued she, that I will be look'd on as a Prostitute; no, I will proclaim the only Measures cou'd have made me yours, attest my Virtue, and defy those Scruples which render you unjust in Concealing what I am. All that DORANTE cou'd urge to the contrary of this Resolution proved in Vain, she was rash, opinionated, and obstinate, and in spite of all he cou'd say, wrote to his Father in the following Terms:

S I R,

‘ I AM, as the Duty of my Character
 ‘ obliges me, extreamly concern'd that
 ‘ my dear DORANTE shou'd have incurr'd
 ‘ your displeasure on any score relating to
 ‘ me: Tho' I am perfectly convinc'd it is
 ‘ owing to himself in not acquainting you
 ‘ that the Woman he now Lives with is
 ‘ his Wife, that she made no difficulty to
 ‘ renounce her Father, Family, and Reli-
 ‘ gion to embrace his, because she loves
 ‘ him: But wou'd much sooner have chose
 ‘ all the Torments of a fruitless Passion,
 ‘ nay, Death itself, than have been his by
 ‘ any dishonourable Tye. I was Educated,
 ‘ Sir, in the strictest Rules of Virtue, and
 ‘ my

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• my Inclinations are such, as will never
• render my Perseverance in obeying them,
• uneasy to me. I, therefore, doubt not,
• but you will much readier pardon your
• Son's Marriage with me, than you wou'd
• have done his undoing a Maid wholly
• Innocent, and unpractis'd in Deceit. And
• in this Confidence, I fear not to declare
• the Truth, and entreat a Blessing for,

Your most obedient Daughter,

and humble Servant,

KESIAH.

THIS being sent to the old Gentleman,
all, and more, than ever DORANTE had
apprehended was the Consequence: The
Messenger being order'd to wait an An-
swer, the enraged Father granted one
which contain'd these Lines:

To DORANTE.

• I HAVE just receiv'd a Letter from a
• Woman who Calls herself your Wife,
• and I perceive is the same Jew on whose
• Score,

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‘ Score, I think, I said too much for her
‘ to presume to have made any such declaration to me, were not both of you as
‘ Void of Understanding, as you are of
‘ Obedience.—I scarce believe you have
‘ made so ill an use of the Education I
‘ have given you, as to throw yourself away
‘ in that Manner, and forfeit all hope
‘ of ever obtaining my Pardon.— But in
‘ this Stratagem you have form’d to deceive
‘ me, be assured you have only deceiv’d
‘ yourselves: I shall never acknowledge a
‘ Person, such as she, for my Daughter,
‘ nor you for my Son, till great Repen-
‘ tance and a thorough return to Virtue,
‘ shall obliterate the Memory of your Faults.

MOROSINO.

DORANTE, who expected nothing less, was not surpriz’d that his Father had answer’d in this Manner: He now cou’d not forbear remonstrating to KESIAH how imprudent she had been; but she had too much obstinacy to confess she had been in the Wrong, and still persevered in endeavouring to sooth him with the Hope, that in a short Time the Storm wou’d blow over. He knew too well the Violence of his Father’s Temper to appear before him, till the
the

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the Affair shou'd be a little mitigated, and all he cou'd do was, to apply to some Friends who were intimate with MOROSINO; but their Endeavours to procure a Reconciliation were ineffectual; and, on the contrary, the Confirmation he receiv'd from them of DORANTE's Marriage, so much heighten'd his Indignation against him, that he Vow'd to disinherit him, and make his younger Son the sole Master of his Possessions after his decease.

THE new wedded Pair were, therefore, oblig'd to depend wholly on themselves for Support, and every Day diminishing their small Stock of Mony, their Rings and Watches were their next supply. Neither of them had yet had any occasion to practise frugality, and being wholly unacquainted with a narrowness of Circumstances, cou'd not tell how to Contract their Expences proportionable to their present Condition: Especially KESIAH, who was naturally Proud, vain Glorious, and Extravagant, in her Diet and Apparel, and when they had reduced themselves to the last Guinea, DORANTE having Persons who offer'd to furnish him with Mony, as not doubting but they shou'd be paid either by MOROSINO, or himself after the old Gentleman's decease, that Inconsiderate Wife

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not only perswaded him to accept their Proposals, but also privately borrowed pretty large Sums of Mony from as many as she cou'd prevail upon to Lend.

WHILE Things were in this unhappy Position, they receiv'd a considerable Addition to their Charges, *viz.* One Night as DORANTE and his Wife were in Bed, they were suddenly awaked by a loud knocking at the Door; a Servant belonging to the People of the House having demanded the Occasion, came and acquainted KESIAH that a Gentleman with a Lady in his Arms, who seem'd either dead or dying, desired to speak with her immediately. She was a little frighted at first, imagining it to be some Stratagem of the *Jews* to get her into their Power, and revenge the Renunciation she had made of their Religion; but DORANTE removed that Apprehension by throwing on his Nightgown, and running down Stairs himself to be inform'd of the Truth. He found as the Maid had said, a young Man of a very good Aspect, tho' full of Trouble, holding in his Arms a Woman richly habited, but who appear'd to be no longer among the Number of the Living. Where, Oh! where is KESIAH or her Husband? Cryed the Stranger, a moment of lost Time may deprive the World
of

The FAIR HEBREW. 27

of its most Valuable Treasure. DORANTE on this, telling him that he had the good Fortune to be married to KESIAH. I am certain then, reply'd the other, you want not Generosity to afford us that Succour, which the most strange Accident has made us stand in need of. KESIAH, who was listening on the Staircase, ran down, Crying out, my Brother! But the Person she call'd so, bad her cease any Exclamations, and shew him where he might lay his fair Burthen, who he said had yet some remains of Life within her. She then Conducted him to her Chamber, and helping him to undress the Lady put her into Bed, and applied proper Remedies to bring her out of her fainting. DORANTE had never in his Life felt greater Curiosity for any thing than he did now, for the Knowledge of an adventure which appear'd so odd, but neither he nor KESIAH had Opportunity to make such a Demand, the Indisposition of their Beautiful Guest employing all their Cares. The Brother of KESIAH wou'd needs watch with her the whole Night, entreating DORANTE and his Spouse to take Repose, which they at last consented to do in another Room, after having seen the lovely Stranger in a much better State than she had been,

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KESIAH, visiting her early the next Morning, found the greatest danger she was in, was occasion'd by Weakness, and a certain Grief, which being settled at her Heart, cou'd not be sometimes restrain'd from overflowing in her Eyes, the Caresses which were given her on all Sides, however, greatly revived her, and that Day she began, not only to look about, but also to talk to those who appear'd so obliging to her. Among other Expressions of her Gratitude: Dreadful and unparallel'd as are my Misfortunes, said she, it yet affords me some Pleasure to find, there are some who are generous enough to pity me. — Then, turning her Head towards *Abimelech*, for so the Brother of KESIAH was call'd, Excellent Man! pursued she, the Act of Goodness you have shewn to me, ought to be Registred in indelible Characters, beyond the iron Teeth of Time, or Envy to erace. These Words encreasing the Consternation of those who were Strangers to the meaning of them, KESIAH, as taking the most Liberty, desired her Brother no longer to defer acquainting them with the Adventure, which had rendred him of so much Service to this Lady, but as he was about to make reply. Hold, I beseech you, generous *Abimelech*, cry'd the Lady, it will add to my

The FAIR HEBREW. 29

my Confusion, that the fair KESIAH and her obliging Spouse, shou'd be told the Faults of their unhappy Guest, without being made acquainted also with the Excuses I have to alledge for the alleviation of my Crime: And since no Body but myself can relate the Circumstances by which I was undone, permit the Story may be Conceal'd till I am in a Condition capable of relating it. Both DORANTE and KESIAH assured her, that the Curiosity they had Exprest, sprung only from the great Esteem they already conceiv'd for her, and shou'd no more repeat their Request till she shou'd let them know she was willing to comply with it.

THEIR impatience was however gratified in a short Time; a few Days restoring the Colour to the Cheeks, and the Vivacity to the Eyes of the fair Stranger, she took the Opportunity when *Abimelech*, DORANTE and KESIAH were all together in the Chamber with her, to tell them she now found herself strong enough to endure the Pangs, the recital of her Misfortunes must infallibly cost her, and wou'd no longer delay the Performance of the Promise she had made. The good Breeding of DORANTE and his Wife, and the more tender Sentiments *Abimelech* felt for her, oblig'd them all to entreat they might rather still continue

30 *The FAIR HEBREW.*

nue in Suspence, than she shou'd hazard her Health by a too long Discourse, till it was better Establish'd; But she said the danger she had been in, was now pretty well over, and the Pleasure she shou'd find in satisfying their Curiosity, wou'd more than Compensate for the trouble she shou'd take. After this she prepared herself to begin the Narration of her Life, which, addressing herself to KESIAH, she gave in these Terms:

The History of MIRIAM.

THO' I never had the Honour of your Acquaintance, Beautiful KESIAH, said she, yet when I shall tell you, I am the Daughter of *Mephibosheth*, of the Tribe of *Ephraim*, you will doubtless remember to have heard of me, there having been some Time since a very great intimacy between our Fathers, tho' of late somewhat estrang'd, for Reasons which I shall omit relating, not only that they are too tedious, but also because they have nothing in them material to my History, except that by them I was deprived of the Society of a Lady in whom I find so much to be admired.

KESIAH

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KESIAH answer'd this little Complement only with a Bow, and the other proceeded in her Discourse.

I am call'd, continued she, MIRIAM, as being the first Born, and delight of my Parents. Having inform'd you who they were, you are not Ignorant that their Wealth put them into a Condition to Educate me in the most elegant Manner, as did the Love they had for me excite their Inclination to do every Thing that might render me Esteem'd. No Branch of Learning, or Accomplishments, befitting a Person of my Sex and Age, was denied me, and those who had a Mind to Ingratiate themselves with my Father, cou'd do it no better Way than by Praising the Progress I made in the Improvements allow'd me by his Indulgence. 'Tis certain, I acquired a great deal in a short Time, and in some Things was confess'd, by those who were my Instructors, to excel the Lessons given me. I speak not this out of Vanity, but to shew you that there is one Passion of the Soul, which, as soon as it exerts itself, is too strong for Precepts, and overturns all the Foundations Wisdom can have laid; I need not tell you 'tis *Love* I mean, I believe none here are Ignorant of its Power, and 'tis from that sensibility alone, I can hope to
find

32 *The FAIR HEBREW.*

find Pardon for the Errors of my Conduct.

HAPNING to be at *Tunbridge* after a small Indisposition, I became acquainted with a young Officer in the Army, call'd, Captain *Conquest*. He made his Addresses to me in the most passionate and tender Manner, and I, charm'd beyond Measure with him, believed too readily all he said, and I desired. I pretended not to be fully recover'd from my late Illness, on purpose to continue at that Place as long as he did, and as soon as I heard he was preparing to remove, I desired also to come to Town. We had taken Care to settle a Correspondence before I left *Tunbridge*, which was to be carried on by Letters left in the hollow of an old Oak in *Drapers Garden*, where also we frequently met, and enjoy'd many a tender interview in one or other of those close Summer Houses, when the pleasantness of the Season calling the City *Belles* to walk more publick, these were left entirely free, or fill'd only by such as had not Heads turn'd our Way, and therefore made it not their Business to observe us.

AFTER an Acquaintance of near three Months, he at length prevail'd on me to permit him to attend me to a House of Entertainment in *Coventgarden*, I had too
good

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good an Opinion of his Honour and his Love, to think myself in any Danger when with him, and scrupled not to accompany him. He behaved himself with so distant a Respect the first Time I allow'd him this Liberty, that a small Entreaty obtain'd a second, but alas! the *modest* and *obsequious* Lover was now chang'd to the *resolute* and *daring*, he wou'd not be satisfied with those Proofs I had given him of my Affection, nor cou'd any Thing I said repel the Encroachings his Boldness every moment made on my Virtue, till partly by Force, and partly by Persuasions, he became Master of my *Person*, as he was before of my Heart. He omitted nothing which might reconcile me to the Folly I had been guilty of: He swore numberless Oaths that I shou'd ever be dearer to him than his Life, and, as there was not a Possibility of marrying me with the Consent of my Parents, that he wou'd contrive a Way to make me his Wife without their Knowledge, and place me where their Rage shou'd have no Power over me. How easy is it for a Heart in Love to be deceived by the darling Object! Not all the Examples I had read of *faithless Men*, and *ruin'd Maids*, cou'd warn me of my Fate, or make me take any Advantage of the Passion I still believe, he

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34 *The FAIR HEBREW.*

then had for me, to oblige him to marry me that Instant, which I have since heard he might easily enough have done for a Gratification to some indigent Clergyman, whose Principles in every Thing not conformable to the Church, cou'd not publickly exercise his Function. But this I knew not then, or if I had, wou'd not have testified so little Belief in the Protestations he made to have urg'd it, since not mention'd by him, who I thought wou'd do every Thing for the best.

DEPENDING in this Manner on his Truth and Constancy, I look'd on myself as his Wife, and as often as he desired, or Opportunities wou'd permit, suffered him to repeat his Crime, and perfect my undoing, for our frequent Intimacies were soon follow'd by the natural Consequence, I was with Child, and, to my Shame, confess, then first remorse for what I had done. With Tears I conjur'd him to perform his Promise, and represented the Danger I was in of falling a Victim to the severe Laws of the *Jews* against Unchastity, especially when guilty of it with a *Gentile*. But he, who wanted not the Art of setting Things in what Light he pleas'd, made his Intentions appear so fair, that I was easily consoled, and doubted not but to be a *Wife* before

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before I was a *Mother*. He told me the Cause he had so long delay'd our Marriage was, that the Regiment to which he belong'd being in daily Expectations of an Order to march towards *Portsmouth*, he wou'd have me make my Escape about that Time, and accompany him to his Quarters, where the Ceremony might be perform'd with less Danger of an immediate Discovery than in *London*. As you are with Child, said he, I wou'd not for the whole World your Reputation shou'd be call'd in Question by the direct Time of our Marriage being known. If that is conceal'd, there will not be the least Room to guess I enjoy'd the *Consummation* before the *Ceremony*, and consequently the dear Product of our mutual Endearments, avoid the Aspersions of Illegitimacy.

THE Reasons he gave me for deferring what I desired, joyn'd to the Assurances it wou'd soon be effected, left me no other Care than to conceal my growing Burthen, which I did with so much Art, that I carry'd it for near eight Months, without giving the least Suspicion to any one of my Condition. The Time of my Delivery, however, approaching so near, put me into fresh Terrors, and I was perpetually asking my dear Undoer, when the happy Time

36 *The FAIR HEBREW.*

of his leaving *London* wou'd arrive, which he still answer'd with saying he every Day expected it, and that it cou'd not now be long. The last Time I ever saw the Deceiver, he told me, he must take his Leave of me for a few Days, being to attend his Colonel a short Journey, and that when they came back, they shou'd infallibly march the Regiment from *London*.

THESE Tidings afforded me an inexpressible Satisfaction, and I passed five or six Days with my usual Tranquility. On the seventh I went to that Oak which had ever been the Repository of our Letters to each other, but found nothing there: I did not however, yet entertain any Thoughts of my Misfortunes, and but imagin'd something had detain'd my Lover contrary to his Expectation, nor when several successive Days, still my Hope was disappointed, did I accuse his Faith: I rather fear'd Death, Sickness, or some other unlucky Accident prevented his coming; the Grief which this Apprehension caused in me, made me at last resolve to be inform'd of the Truth, to which End, running the Risque of what Discovery might happen by it, I went myself to the Lodgings of this cruel Man, where I had no sooner enquired concerning him, than I was told he was embark'd with the rest
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The FAIR HEBREW. 37

of the Officers on board a Vessel for *Ireland*, the Place to which that Regiment was ordered, and not to *Portsmouth*, as he had pretended. I found also, that the Day of his Departure was the very next to that in which I had seen him. So monstrous a Piece of Villany gave me an Astonishment, which, for some Time, stupified all my Senses, and suffer'd neither Grief nor Rage to operate on me. But when I got home, and had Leisure to reflect on his Perfidiousness, and my own irreparable Ruin, all sure that can be conceiv'd of Horror, was short of what I felt. I forgot all Caution, and without any Regard how my Disorders might be interpreted, tore my Hair and Garments, and utter'd the most extravagant Exclamations.—What had I indeed to fear? Or what now to conceal? The worst of Evils was fallen on me, and every Thing must be infallibly betray'd, since he, who alone, I depended on to hide my Shame, had abandon'd me. The Agonies I endur'd, threw me at length into a Swoon, in which Condition I was found by my Sister and one of the Maids, who having several Times call'd me, came into my Chamber in search of me. I was extended on the Ground, my Hair unbraided, and hanging wildly o're my Face, and the little Ornaments I was us'd

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38 *The* FAIR HEBREW.

to wear on my Head and Breast, torn, and the Pieces scatter'd on the Floor. Their Cries at seeing me in so strange a Posture, drew immediately the whole Family about me: The first Thing they did was to cut the Lacing of my Stays and Petticoat, which alas! discover'd, e're I was sensible of it, the Crime I had been guilty of. Not only my Mother, who had many Times been in the same Condition, but also the most unexperienc'd in the Room, easily perceiv'd I was with Child. What Discourse pass'd among them, or how much my Fault was extenuated or excused, I knew not, but when I recover'd, I found myself on a Bed, near which sat both my Parents, and at a little more Distance my three Sisters, the Eyes of the former darted on me the most angry Glances, those of the others were streaming with Tears. My Father was the first who confirm'd, what I too sadly conjectur'd by their Looks, by sternly demanding of me the Wretches Name who had dishonour'd me. Shame, and Confusion, hind'ring me from replying immediately, If, resum'd he, more fiercely, you wou'd defer the Punishment your Crime incurre, have a Moment's Time to crave Forgiveness of offended Heaven, or hope Compassion from a Father's Heart in the last Agonies of departing

parting Breath, conceal not the least particular of the horrid Truth, nor seek to put us off by vain Evasions. Just as he had finish'd these Words, my Uncle, who was a *Levite*, came into the Chamber, and being briefly inform'd of what had happen'd, added to what my Father had said such terrible Anathema's, that my lately recall'd Soul was near being frighted from her Dwelling to return no more; perceiving I was fainting a second Time, they apply'd Remedies to bring me to myself, tho' not with any Regard for the Preservation of my Life, as I since found, but for the Discovery of the Secret, that they might be reveng'd on the Author of my Undoing, if in their Power.

To refuse Compliance with their Commands, I knew wou'd more enflame their Indignation, and be of no Service any way to myself, nor cou'd my declaring the whole fatal Story prejudice the Captain, since he was past the Reach of their Vengeance. I, therefore, related the Circumstances by which I was betray'd, and pretending not to excuse what I had done, threw myself entirely on the Mercy of my Parents. I know not how inclinable they might have been to afford it me, if my Uncle had not dwelt with so much Strictness and Vehemence on the Letter of the Law,

40 *The FAIR HEBREW.*

Law, that they dreaded by pardoning to become Sharers in my Guilt.

I was after this, confin'd close Prisoner in my Chamber, entirely ignorant of the Fate decreed for me, till the Hour of my Delivery discovering itself near at Hand, by the terrible Pains which began to assail me, my Uncle, the *Levite* came to my Room, and taking me by the Hand, said he wou'd conduct me to a Place provided for my Reception. With these Words he led me to a Coach, and after having put me into it, entered himself with a young Man, whom I afterwards knew to be ABIMELECH. It was about Mid-night when we left my Father's House, but our Journey was so short, that we arriv'd at the intended Scene of my Murder in less than half an Hour. It was a large and well furnish'd Apartment I was brought into, but what amazed me most, I saw no living thing in it but the Persons that came with me, and my Uncle opening the Door with a Key he brought with him, convinc'd me there was, indeed, no Persons but ourselves in the House. I ask'd with some Amazement, to whom it belonged? And, if in such a Condition as mine was, there requir'd not the Assistance of Women? My Uncle told me every thing necessary was prepared, and then told ABIMELECH it was
Time

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Time he gave the Midwife Notice to attend me: He departed, but as he went out gave me a Look which I then fancy'd had something of a fatal, tho' a tender Meaning, and I soon after experienc'd the Truth of my Conjecture. During his Absence, my Uncle entertain'd me with the Heinousness of my Crime, and uttered such terrible Remonstrances, as, had I been in a State of Health, wou'd, perhaps, have made me imagine Death a less Ill than his Reproaches; but alas! the King of Horrors seem'd at that Instant too near me; the cruel Pains I felt making me believe every Moment was my last, I thought I wou'd have given the World, had I been Mistress of it, for the Certainty of Life, tho' it were to be attended with all manner of Calamity. — So shocking are the Apprehensions of Futurity, when seeming just ready to launch into it.

THE Return of ABIMELECH with the Midwife, put a Stop to the severe Upbraidings of this remorseless Man, and the Sight of her gave me some Consolation, as hoping I had now the same Chance for Life with the rest of my Sex, who all undergo doubtless an equal Share of Torture in becoming Mothers. I was lying on the Bed when she approached me, and after having look'd about the Chamber with a vi-

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42 *The FAIR HEBREW.*

fible Surprize, demanded where were the Things necessary for the Child when it shou'd be born, and where the Women to assist her. My Uncle told her himself, that the young Man who brought her wou'd perform what Offices she required; and as for the Child, she had no farther Business than to bring it into the World, and deliver it to him; to which she resolutely answered, that she neither cou'd, nor wou'd, be guilty of any such Indecency, and that she was apprehensive of some ill Design; but my Uncle sternly resumed, that she had nothing to do with Examination, that she was sent for to do her Office, and concluded with assuring her she shou'd not go out of that House alive if she refused. These Menaces, and the Uncertainty what Place she was in; for ABIMELECH, tho' it was Night, had hoodwink'd her Eyes with his Handkerchief all the way she came, that not a Star might direct her to find it again, at last prevail'd upon her to begin her Operation, tho' she so much trembled that, as herself confess'd, it was more owing to Nature than her Assistance that I was safely delivered. My Uncle, as he had said, took the poor Infant, but, instead of caressing, or cherishing it as expected, threw it immediately into a great Fire, uttering
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The FAIR HEBREW. 43

at the same Time some Words which my excessive Fright wou'd not suffer me to observe. — Oh! Never, never, shall I forget the Skrieks of the poor Babe, whose Face I had not seen, but which was endear'd to me by the Pains I had suffered for it. The Midwife swoon'd away at being compell'd to behold so monstrous an Action, and it was as much as my inhumane Uncle and ABIMELECH cou'd do to bring her to herself. At the Return of her Senses, she durst not give Vent to any Part of her Sentiments on that Occasion, fearing, with good Reason, that those who had been so wickedly cruel to the innocent Babe, wou'd make no Scruple of silencing her for ever. All she said, was to intreat she might be permitted to depart, on which ABIMELECH blinding her in the same manner as before, conducted her out. Pity certainly gave Wings to his Feet, for he came back much sooner than he had done before, and just Time enough to prevent me from sharing the same Fate with my poor Child.

THE Moment ABIMELECH and the Midwife had left the Room, my cruel Uncle bad me turn my Eyes on the Flames, in which I saw the Limbs of that dear Innocent not yet consumed. — Horrid Idea! Never to be forgotten shock! Let me not dwell

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44 *The FAIR HEBREW.*

upon it, lest I run mad, and you too catch the Frenzy. —

HERE the fair Historian stopp'd, to give way to a Torrent of Tears, which, in Spite of her Efforts, wou'd force themselves thro' her Eyes; I was not present, said ABIMELECH, while that dreadful Scene was acting, but conscious, tho' unable to prevent it, of what was doing, felt little less Horror in the Idea than I shou'd at the Sight. He was about to add something more, but perceiving MIRIAM about to resume her Discourse, deferred it:

I rais'd myself upon my Arm, pursued she, to view the Image of myself consuming, and expressing some Part of the Wildness of my Grief in Cries and Exclamations. Cease, said he, to waste your Tears and your Complainings on a Thing senseless of them, rather reserve them for your own approaching Fate, and think how you will be able to endure those transitory Burnings which must immediately destroy that Flesh pampered for Lust and Shame. Then remember that, without you have sincerely repented, the same Pains, or worse, must eternally feed on your Soul, when your Body is Ashes. Pray, continued he, for you have but a Moment to live. He had scarce finished these Words when ABIMELECH
came

The FAIR HEBREW. 45

came into the Room; on which, Now, resumed he, ABIMELECH, behold the Punishment of Unchastity, and be warn'd from all Pollution. In speaking this, he took me roughly by the Arm, and half dragg'd me from the Bed, when my generous Preserver caught hold on him, crying, Desist from thy cruel Attempt, or fall a Victim to thy unnatural Barbarity, thou that hast no Pity on thy own Flesh and Blood, shalt find as little from me. These Words were accompany'd by Actions which made the old Wretch tremble, and immediately let me loose; for ABIMELECH had his drawn Sword in one Hand, and seizing him by the Throat with the other, had certainly put an End to all future Inhumanities he cou'd treat me with, had he not comply'd with his Demand. He endeavour'd, 'tis true, to terrify hm from opposing what he wou'd do, by representing to him the Character of a *Levite*, and the Respect which, in all Ages of the World, were paid by the *Jews* to their *Rabbi*, and then excused the Cruelty he had practis'd on my Child, and was about to doom me, under the Pretence of a holy Zeal. But ABIMELECH was not to be prevail'd on, nor wou'd consent to save his Life, till he had sworn not to molest or pursue him, in conveying me away.

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46 *The FAIR HEBREW.*

That bigotted Severity now gave way to the Fears he was in, of meeting the same Fate he wou'd inflict, and he vow'd by the Lives of the *Patriarchs*, to fulfil what the other desired.

THUS was I preserved from the impending Danger, and ABIMELECH knowing no Place where he might so safely entrust me as in the House of his Sister, who having married with a *Christian*, and also had embraced that Faith herself, was entirely out of the Subjection of the *Jewish* Laws, brought me hither in his Arms in the Condition which your generous Compassion has very much administer'd to my Relief.

MIRIAM having concluded her Story, received the Congratulations of DORANTE and KESIAH for her fortunate Escape, after which the latter ask'd her Brother, how it happen'd that he was chose the Companion and Partner of the cruel *Levite* in this Act of Horror, and that it was not rather some one of her own Relations. To which ABIMELECH answered, that it was judged improper two Persons ally'd to her by Blood shou'd undertake to be her Executioners, lest both shou'd be overwhelmed by Pity, and therefore the *Levite*, being intimately acquainted with him, desired his Society, as being wholly a Stranger

The FAIR HEBREW. 47

to her; but added, that he had not been apprized of the Tragedy he was intended a Witness of, but only injoyn'd *Secrecy* and *Assistance* in an Affair which required both.

SOME Days after this, the beautiful MIRIAM being perfectly recover'd, desired to become a *Christian*, as did also ABIMELECH, whether out of a real sensibility of the Truth of that Doctrine, or to screen themselves from the *Jewish* Power; is uncertain, but making, however, the most ardent Professions of the former, they were baptized.

HERE was now four Persons altogether in a House who had none of them the least Dependance for Support. The Brother of KESIAH, understanding she had yet some Credit, press'd her to borrow Money for him to traffick with, assuring her, if he had any Success, of a ready Payment and Gratification. DORANTE himself was not against embarking in this Stratagem, and left no Friend untry'd till he had procured a Sum sufficient for ABIMELECH to begin his Merchandize. He went to *Holland* accompany'd by MIRIAM, who, owing her Life to him, thought she cou'd not in Honour refuse devoting it to his Pleasure. But Fortune either being averse to his Expectations, or that he wanted the Will, if not the Power, to return his Obligations to
DORANTE,

48 *The FAIR HEBREW.*

DORANTE, that unhappy Gentleman was thrown into Prison for the Debts contracted on his Score and his own.

Now it was the real Disposition of KESIAH began to show itself, and prove that Tendernefs, Gratitude, or Generosity, had no Share in her Composition, she not only refused living with her Husband in his Confinement, but whenever she vouchsafed to visit him, reproached him with the Misfortunes he had fallen into meerly for the Love of her, and a too blind acquiescing to all her expensive Desires. Abandoned by those who had profess'd the most Friendship to him, and ill treated by her from whom he had the greatest Reason to hope Consolation, never Man endured more severe Reflections than poor DORANTE: In this Extremity, reduc'd to the want of even the most common Necessaries of Life, he wrote to his Father, entreating Succour and Forgiveness; but that remorseless Man declared he wou'd afford neither, unless he wou'd engage himself never to see KESIAH more, whom he call'd the ruin of his Youth, and utter Destruction of his Virtue. But so dear was still this ungrateful Beauty to his Eyes, that he chose rather to perish miserably in Prison, than live depriv'd of seeing her sometimes, unkind and upbraiding as her Behaviour

The FAIR HEBREW. 49

Behaviour to him was. This Obstinacy encreasing the Displeasure of his Father, he resolv'd to cut off the Entail of the Estate, in Favour of his younger Son, and to that End sent a Lawyer to DORANTE offering a Sum of Money sufficient to procure his Liberty, if he wou'd consent to renounce his Birth-right. KESIAH happening to be there at the same Time, used her utmost Insinuations with her Husband to comply, on Condition the old Gentleman wou'd advance a small Sum more; DORANTE at last, tho' with great Reluctance, yielded to their Importunities, and the Pressures of his Necessities. The Proposals being thus agreed to by all Sides, this unhappy Gentleman set his Hand to the Writing which cut him off for ever, from the Possessions of his Ancestors.

IF it were possible for him to be guilty of a greater Proof of Infatuation than he had been, he now was; for this last Stake, for which he had renounced all, and on which depended his Liberty, he entrusted to the Management of KESIAH, she having persuaded him that she cou'd compound with the Creditors for a trifling Sum, and that the Remainder wou'd serve them for their Support, till Fortune shou'd prove more Kind. But how terrible was the Condition

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50) *The FAIR HEBREW.*

of this too fond and believing Husband, when the Day being elaps'd in which he expected KESIAH and his Release, he sent to enquire the Cause of this Delay; and was inform'd by the Messenger, that he must have done with Hope, for that unfaithful Woman, having been seduced by the Addresses of a young Gentleman in order to leave *England*, she had consented to be Partaker of his Travels, and had carried with her the Price of her unhappy Spouse's Liberty, not discharging even the smallest Debt for which he was confin'd.

THESE melancholy Tidings were oblig'd to be several Times repeated before they cou'd gain Credit in the enamour'd Heart of DORANTE, but when too sadly convinc'd of their Veracity, Language wants Force to represent the Agonies of his distracted State, so I shall only say it was in Proportion with the Love he had for this base Woman, and the irreparable Ruin she had involv'd him in.

A short Time after this, his Father was taken violently ill, with a Distemper which convinc'd all about him that the Physicians Art was vain to save him. He had heard his Son's last Misfortunes, and being touch'd with a Fatherly Compassion, with his dying Breath charged the then Inheritor of the
Estate,

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Estate, to free his unhappy Brother, and give him an Apartment in his House, and Place at his Table. The young Gentleman assured him by an Oath of performing his Command; and fail'd not in it, for before the funeral Obsequies of his Father, DORANTE was releas'd, and appear'd chief Mourner at the Grave.

THIS generous Action of his Brother, tho' it greatly consoled DORANTE, had not the Power to restore him that Tranquility, which alone renders Life a Blessing. He was at Liberty, 'tis true, and knew no want of any Convenience, but then he look'd on himself as a Dependant on the Person whose Superior he was born, an Interloper on that Estate which ought to have been his own, and, above all, when he consider'd that he had thus reduc'd himself for the Sake of an ungrateful and perfidious Woman, who had not only ruin'd, robb'd, and dishonour'd him, but also still held his Heart in Chains, he was sometimes ready to punish his fond Folly, by becoming his own Executioner. But tho' kept from that Desperation by the Principles of *Christianity*, he cou'd not refrain from indulging a Melancholy which, by degrees, seiz'd on his Vitals, deprived him at last of Life, and eas'd his Brother of all future Charge, but that last Office of Hu-

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manity,

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manity, laying him decently in the Earth.

HE had, however, the Satisfaction of being reveng'd before his Death on those Persons who render'd his Life so unhappy. An Account arriv'd, that the Ship which bore KESIAH, her Lover, and the Plunder of her deceiv'd Husband, was taken by a *Sallee* Pyrate, and all the Passengers carried to *Madagascar*, to continue in a hard and perpetual Slavery; none ever being permitted to return from that Place, even tho' they had Freinds capable of ransoming them, which neither of these Fugitives could boast.

IT was thought extremely strange by all present when DORANTE receiv'd this News, that he express'd no Pleasure in hearing the Miseries of those who had inflicted so much on him; but either the Tenderness he still felt for that unworthy Woman, or the Meekness which true Religion teaches, kept him from uttering any Thing which look'd like triumphing. He only made some instructive Observations on the Justice of Providence, which, sooner or later, suffers not the Guilty to escape, and takes Vengeance for the injured, who depend not for it on their own Strength or Invention, but wait with Patience the Event from the supream

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pream Decree of him who is the Disposer of all Things.

THIS Example of a Wife so dearly purchased, is sufficient to warn Mankind from a too hasty Marriage. Short are the Joys which Beauty yields, when the interior Part is deform'd with Hypocrisy and ill Nature. Virtue, and a Parity of Disposition, are the Requisites to make the nuptial Bonds fit easy; and where either of these are wanting, that State, tho' design'd the highest Blessing, proves the greatest Curse; nor can the Fault be ascrib'd to any other Cause than our own ill Choice.

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